

Area Connection

Winter 2010

"advocacy,
capacity building,
and systemic change"



Area 6 Developmental Disabilities Board

2529 W March Lane, Ste 105 Stockton, CA 95207

Phone: 209-473-6930 Fax: 209-473-6932

Email: ab6@scdd.ca.gov Website: www.areaboard6.ca.gov

The SCDD/Area Board 6 protects and advocates for the rights of persons with developmental disabilities in Amador, Calaveras, San Joaquin, Stanislaus and Tuolumne counties.

Board Members

Gary Del Nero, Chair
Governor Appointee
Stanislaus County

Governor Appointee
Brad Putz
Tuolumne County

Amador County
Mary Dye
Anna Newman

Calaveras County
Mollie Rogers
(vacancy)

San Joaquin County
Robert Balderama
Gwen Caldeira

Stanislaus County
(vacancy)
(vacancy)

Tuolumne County
Jill Ames
(vacancy)

Staff
Dena M. Hernandez
Neil Fromm
George Lewis III
Marigene Tacan-Regan

Welcome to our first newsletter of 2010!
Due to budget constraints, we haven't put a newsletter together since the summer of 2008! Some things have changed around here and some things have stayed the same! Check it out below!

Some Things That Have Changed

The Life Quality Assessment Project (LQA) ended June 2009 and we had to say goodbye to our dedicated LQA visitors who helped us complete the many thousands of visits over the 10 years of the project. Thank you to our visitors Leslie Jegoux, Sonny Lee, Diane Losea, Blanca Lujan, Vicki Ocaranza, and Gene Rea.



Dena Hernandez was selected as the new Executive Director in April 2009. She is very fortunate to work with a great team, pictured above (l-r) ; Marigene Tacan-Regan, OT, George Lewis III and Neil Fromm, Community Program Specialist II

They have been working hard on the State Plan objectives while surviving the three state mandated furlough days a month. The office is closed the first three Fridays each month through June 2010.

The State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD) is working hard with the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) and Human Services Research Institute (HSRI) to be a part of the new Quality Assurance Project that will be up and running at each area board this year. Stay Tuned !

What hasn't changed - Our commitment and dedication to work with self advocates and families to protect and advocate for their rights!!!



Advocate Corner

By: Neil Fromm

Threat to the Lanterman Act

California faces a 20 billion dollar budget shortfall for 2010 and the Lanterman Act may be under threat of massive change or elimination.

A Brief History



The Lanterman Developmental Disabilities Act is a California law, initially proposed by Assembly member Frank D. Lanterman in 1973 and passed in 1977, that gives people with developmental disabilities the right to services and supports that enable them to live more independent and normal lives. The Lanterman Act declares that persons with developmental disabilities have the same legal rights and responsibilities guaranteed all other persons by federal and state constitutions and laws, and charges the regional centers with advocacy for, and protection of, these rights. The regional centers are mandated to serve persons with mental retardation, cerebral palsy, epilepsy, autism, and conditions similar to mental retardation that require treatment similar to the treatment required for individuals with mental retardation. The Lanterman Act also assigns the regional centers the responsibility of providing various services and supports to consumers and their families. These include: outreach, assessment and evaluation, case management, advocacy to protect legal and service rights of the people they serve and development of family centered Individual Family Service Plans (IFSP) and person centered Individual Program Plans (IPP). Additionally the Regional Centers are tasked with developing cost effective, individualized services and supports that promote community integration. There are 21 regional centers in the state. The function of area boards as stated in the Lanterman Act is to protect and advocate the rights of all persons with developmental disabilities. There are 13 area boards.

www.areaboard6.ca.gov

www.vmrc.net



Recent Event



The budget agreement of 2009 and trailer bill provisions brought about significant change in standards and reductions in services provided through the Lanterman Act including: Early Start services, non-medical services and therapies, general standards, supported living services, respite and other services and supports.

How the System Works



If a person or a group of people have an interest in influencing the outcome of events, information and organization are the keys. In order to effectively advocate for a position, a person must have a clear idea of the issues being considered. Organization leads to more effective advocacy. To learn more about the Lanterman Act including changes enacted in 2009 you can contact Valley Mountain Regional Center or the Area Board 6. If you have internet access, check out the web sites listed below.

Passage of the Lanterman Act led to significant and positive change in the lives of so many. Thousands were freed from State hospitals where few rights were observed and many people were neglected and abused. Today people receive services and supports that meet their individual needs and allow them to live productively and independently in the community. Children receive earlier diagnosis and intervention leading to more effective treatment and brighter futures. Also and perhaps more importantly, passage and preservation of the Lanterman Act altered the system and in doing so changed attitudes of the public in regard to how and where their neighbors with disabilities live, work, socialize and recreate in the State of California.

Yes there is a threat to the services and supports provided through the Lanterman Act and it is real and present. Hopefully, whatever happens in 2010 is the will of the people. Stay informed & involved!

www.disabilityrightscalifornia.org

www.cdcan.us

Final LQA STAR By George Lewis

Patrick's Dreams Have Come True

Patrick Liptrap and I first met 3 years ago for an LQA visit. At that time he talked about his dreams. He had recently married Shainy, his girlfriend of 11 years, so that dream had already come true! They had a beautiful church ceremony surrounded by family and honeymooned in Lake Tahoe.

They both shared another dream of owning their own home. Patrick and I recently met again for a follow up LQA visit. When I called him to schedule the visit he told me, he and Shainy had moved to another trailer space. Patrick was excited and looked

forward to sharing everything about his life!

(Patrick in his backyard)



We last met in 2006. When I drove up to his home, I immediately noticed that the trailer he was now living in looked like a much newer model. I was welcomed into their home and he and Shainy told me the news...they had bought the new trailer home earlier in the year. Another dream came true! Patrick said the trailer purchase was a great deal and that they bought it from the owner of the Lake Amador Trailer Park! It came with 2 years of free space rental. He and Shainy are so happy to own their home. He talked about his neighbors, how nice they are and how it's a lot of fun living at Lake Amador.

Patrick and Shainy are shining examples of people that made their dreams come true through determination, hard work and by saving money. One of first things Patrick and Shainy bought for their new home was a 42 inch plasma television. Life is good for Patrick and Shainy.



Become a member of the Area 6 Board!

The Area 6 Developmental Disabilities Board is a State of California agency attached to the State Council on Developmental Disabilities. The Board advocates and protects the legal, civil, and service rights of people with developmental disabilities. Serving on the Area 6 Board provides volunteer members with a unique opportunity to improve policy, practice, and services for people with developmental disabilities and their families in Amador, Calaveras, San Joaquin, Stanislaus and Tuolumne counties.

The Board has 15 volunteer members. Ten are appointed by the boards of supervisors of Amador, Calaveras, San Joaquin, Stanislaus and Tuolumne counties (2 from each county), and five (5) are appointed by the Governor. The criterion is that persons have demonstrated interest and leadership in human service activities.

The remaining Board meetings for 2010 are from 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm on**

- March 23– ARC Amador
- May 25– Calaveras County
- July 27– Tuolumne County
- September 28– San Joaquin County
- November 16– Stanislaus County

** *Specific Location will be posted on our website.*

CURRENT VACANCIES

Calaveras County- one vacancy
Stanislaus County- two vacancies
Tuolumne County- one vacancy
Governor's Appointees- two vacancies

Contact Dena Hernandez for an application or further information!



Spring 2010

March 23—Area Board 6 Board Meeting 6:00 p.m. in ARC Amador.

April 16—CHOICES 2010 Conference “Get Healthy-Stay Fit”. Contact the CHOICES Institute 209-473-6950.

May 7—Self Advocacy Council VI AREA MEETING 10:00 a.m.

Contact SAC VI 209-955-3624.

May 25—Area Board 6 Board Meeting 6:00 p.m. in Calaveras County.

Summer 2010

June 11 - 13—People First of California Statewide Conference in Sacramento. 916-552-6625.

July 27—Area Board 6 Board Meeting 6:00 p.m. Tuolumne County.

August 6—Self Advocacy Council VI AREA MEETING 10:00 a.m. in Modesto. 209-955-3624.

Fall 2010

September 10 - 11—Disability Awareness Event Weber Point Stockton.

September 20—California Memorial Project in Stockton & Manteca.

September 28—Area Board 6 Board Meeting 6:00 p.m. San Joaquin County.

November 5—Self Advocacy Council VI AREA MEETING 10:00 a.m. Stockton 209-955-3624.

November 16—Area Board 6 Board Meeting 6:00 p.m. Stanislaus County.

Family Resource Network and Area Board 6 Offer FREE training on Writing an Effective IEP

- Feb. 18—Doctor's Med. Ctr. Modesto
- Mar. 4—San Andreas Library
- Mar. 30—Lodi Library
- Apr. 20—Sonora Library
- Apr. 29—Tracy Sport's Complex
-

**Please call to reserve your spot
at the next training.**

**ATTENTION VMRC Vendors!!
Coalition of Local Area
Service Providers
(CLASP) meets the 3rd Thursday of every
month at VMRC Stockton office. For more
information contact group chairman
David Tolliver
davidt@continuumcollege.org**

**Visit our website for more
information on current events,
issues and resources
www.areaboard6.ca.gov**

The Area 6 Self Advocacy Info Sheet

FEBRUARY 2010

Does your Self Advocacy People First group have two representatives on the Self Advocacy Council 6??

By working together in our area and across the state-we will get stronger!

Call the Self Advocacy Council 6 for more information!! 955-3624

DID YOU KNOW.....



People First of California is located in Sacramento. There are representatives from across the state who attends those meetings. There are 13 areas- we are AREA 6. Krisi Franzone was elected by AREA 6 to represent us at those meetings. She is a member of the Self Advocacy Council 6. Her term is nearly up so an election will be held at the MAY Area Meeting- contact SAC 6 if you are interested or want more information!



Self Advocacy Council 6 - Representatives from People First Chapters from the 5 counties in Area 6 -Amador, Calaveras, San Joaquin, Stanislaus and Tuolumne make up the Self Advocacy Council 6. They meet at the Area Board 6 office in Stockton every two months.

Self Advocacy Council 6

Two Representatives from each People First chapter are welcome to join!

If your group isn't listed here....WE NEED YOU!!!!



San Joaquin
People First



Person Centered Services



**YOUR GROUP HERE!!!!
JOIN US!!
Call 955-3624**



Meet the **New Officers** for the Self Advocacy Council 6



TIM



BRAD



KEVAN



MARK

Left to right- Tim Cabral- Chairperson, Brad Putz- Vice Chair,
Kevan Jantzen -Secretary and Mark Collins-Treasurer

UPCOMNG EVENTS

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!!!!

Join Us at the next CHOICES Conference

FRIDAY, APRIL 16, 2010

**S.J. County Office of Education
Stockton**

**Registration Material will be sent
out at the end of February.**

**Call CHOICES at 473-6950 for more
information!**

COST- \$25.00 for self advocates!!!

Join Us at the next Area Meeting!!



FRIDAY, MAY 7th, 2010

**Quail Lakes Baptist Church (in the gym)
1904 Quail Lakes Drive- Stockton, CA**

Begins at 10am

Bring your lunch and come ready to

Have FUN!

COST- FREE

SOME THINGS THE SELF ADVOCACY COUNCIL 6 HAS BEEN UP TO!!!!



People First of California Convention
in Sacramento in June 2009. The
SAC 6 provided
The Dating Game again! VERY FUN!!



The SAC 6 is on the Planning Team
for the California Memorial Project.
Two Memorial Ceremonies were in
held in September 2009- one in
Manteca and one in Stockton!!!!